

Remarks

Applicants have reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed December 6, 2006. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

The Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 para. 2

The Examiner rejects independent Claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 para. 2. To expedite issuance of a patent from this Application, Applicants have made clarifying amendments to independent Claim 1 and canceled independent Claim 12. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 and all its dependent claims.

**The Claims are Allowable over the Proposed
Mishra-Hallam-Baker Combination**

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Security Services Markup Language” by Mishra et al. (“*Mishra*”) in view of “Security Assertions Markup Language Straw-man Architecture” by Hallam-Baker (“*Hallam-Baker*”).

To expedite issuance of a patent from this Application, Applicants have canceled Claims 2, 4, and 9-17 and made clarifying amendments to Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-8. Applicants have also added new Claims 24-32.

The proposed *Mishra-Hallam-Baker* combination fails to disclose, teach, or suggest limitations recited in independent Claims 1, 7, 26, and 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 7, 26, and 32 and all their dependent claims.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants invite the Examiner to call Travis W. Thomas, the undersigned attorney for Applicants, at 214.953.6676.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Thomas', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

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Date: March 6, 2007

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